UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/760,999	01/16/2001	Janet Arlie Barnett	RD-28,556	6045

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GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
GLOBAL RESEARCH
PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59
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EXAMINER
EL CHANTI, HUSSEIN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

DATE MAILED: 03/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/760,999	BARNETT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Hussein A El-chanti	2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 February 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-38* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) *2,5,8,11,12,18,19,22,23,25-27 and 29* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,3,4,6,7,9,10,13-17,20,21,24,28 and 30-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to RCE received on Feb. 1, 2005. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-

10, 13, 16-17, 20-21, 24, 28 and 30 were amended. Claims 31-38 were newly added.

Claims 2, 5, 8, 11-12, 18-19, 22-23, 25-27 and 29 were canceled. Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-

10, 13-17, 20-21, 24, 28 and 30-38 are pending examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-17, 20-21, 24, 28 and 30-38 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schneider et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,785,728

(referred to hereafter as Schneider).

Schneider teaches the invention explicitly as claimed including a system and

method of determining access permission for each administrator according to a

predefined set of permission policies (see abstract).

As to claims 1 and 25, Schneider teaches a method and a computer-readable

medium respectively for managing a user community, comprising:

defining a set of user attributes for each user in the user community (see col. 10

lines 20-25, each user belongs to a group where the user and the group has a set of

defined access policies); and

identifying by a first administrator a permission level for managing the user

attributes wherein the permission level defines administrative operation that can or

cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute (see col. 10 lines 26-

45, the administrator defines the user access permission level by defining the data the

can be viewed, deleted and modified by each user and group).

As to claim 4, Schneider teaches a method for managing user information

associated with a user community, comprising:

defining a set of user attributes from the user information for each user the user

community (see col. 10 lines 20-25);

identifying a permission level for the user attributes wherein the permission level

defines administrative operation that can or cannot be performed by a second

administrator on a user attribute (see col. 10 lines 26-45); and

managing the user attributes according to each of the permission levels (see col.

10 lines 26-45).

As to claim 7, Schneider teaches a method for enabling an administrator to

control administration of a user community, comprising:

providing user information associated with the user community to the

administrator (see col. 10 lines 10-45);

prompting the administrator to define a set of user attributes for each user in the

user community (see 10 lines 10-45);

prompting the administrator to identify a permission level for each of the user

attributes wherein the permission level defines administrative operation that can or

cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute (see col. 10 lines 10-

45); and

using the identified permission levels to control administration of the user

information (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claims 10 and 21, Schneider teaches a user community administration tool

for managing user information associated with a user community, comprising:

a domain definition component and means that defines the user community into

at least one administrative domain (see col. 10 lines 10-45),

the domain definition component comprising a user group specifying component

that specifies at least one arbitrary group of users from the user community and a user

attribute definition component that defines a set of permissible user attributes for the at

least one arbitrary group of users wherein the user attribute definition component

comprises an attribute permission component that enables a first administrator specify a

permission level for each of the user attributes wherein the user permission level

defines operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user

attribute (see col. 10 lines 10-45 and col. 13 lines 60-col. 14 lines 35); and

an information management component and means that manages the user

information associated with the administrative domain in accordance with the

permissible user attributes (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claims 3, 6, 9, 24, 27 and 30, Schneider teaches the method according to

claims 1, 4, 7, 23 and 28 respectively, further comprising defining restricted values that

an administrator can assign for the user attributes (see col. 10 lines 25-46).

As to claim 13, Schneider teaches the tool according to claim 10, wherein the

user attribute definition component comprises an attribute restricted value component

that defines restricted values that an administrator can assign for any of the user

attributes (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 14, Schneider teaches the tool according to claim 10, further

comprising an administrative privileges component that grants administrative privileges

for the administrative domain (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 15, Schneider teaches the tool according to claim 14, wherein the

administrative privileges component delegates the granted administrative privileges for

the administrative domain (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 16, Schneider teaches a system for managing user information

associated with a user community, comprising:

a database directory containing a plurality of user information (see col. 10 lines 10-45);

a user community administration tool to manage the plurality of user information in the database directory; the user community administration tool comprising a domain definition component that defines the user community into at least one administrative domain, the domain definition component comprising a user group specifying component that specifies at least one arbitrary group of users from the user community and a user attribute definition component that defines a set of permissible user attributes for the at least one arbitrary group of users wherein the user attribute definition component comprises an attribute permission component that enables a first administrator specify a permission level for each of the user attributes wherein the user permission level defines operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute (see col. 10 lines 10-45 and col. 13 lines 60-col. 14 lines 35);

and an information management component that manages the user information associated with the administrative domain in accordance with the permissible user attributes; and a first computing unit configured to serve the user community administration tool and the database directory (see col. 10 lines 10-45) .

As to claim 17, Schneider teaches the system according to claim 16, further comprising a second computing unit configured to execute the user community

administration tool served from the first computing unit over a network (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 20, Schneider teaches the system according to claim 16, wherein the user attribute definition component comprises an attribute restricted value component that defines restricted values that an administrator can assign for any of the user attributes (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 28, Schneider teaches a computer-readable medium storing computer instructions for instructing a computer system to enable an administrator to control administration of a user community, the computer instructions comprising:

providing user information associated with the user community to the administrator (see col. 10 lines 10-45);

prompting the administrator to define a set of user attributes for each of the users in the user community (see col. 10 lines 10-45);

prompting the administrator to identify a permission level for each of the user attributes wherein each permission level defines operations that as second administrator can or cannot perform on a user attribute (see col. 10 lines 10-45); and

using the identified permission levels to control administration of the user information (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 31, Schneider teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user attributes comprise user information associated with a user community (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 32, Schneider teaches the method of claim 31, wherein the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of employer name, employer job description, employer address and state of employment (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 33, Schneider teaches the method of claim 31, wherein the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of resources for which permission to access the resources has been granted and type of equipment used (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 34, Schneider teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of employer name, employer job description, employer address and state of employment (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 35, Schneider teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of resources for which permission to access the resources has been granted and type of equipment used (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 36, Schneider teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of employer name, employer job description, employer address and state of employment (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 37, Schneider teaches the method of claim 7, wherein the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of resources for which permission to

access the resources has been granted and type of equipment used (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

As to claim 38. (New) A method for enabling administration of information associated with a user community, comprising:

providing user information associated with the user community to a first administrator, wherein the user information comprises a set of user attributes for users in the user community;

prompting the first administrator to identify a permission level for managing the user attributes, wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that a second administrator can or cannot perform on the user attribute;

prompting the first administrator to define restricted values that can be assigned to the user attributes, wherein the restricted values specify values that the second administrator can or cannot assign to the user attribute; and

using the identified permission levels and the restricted values to control administration of information associated with the user community (see col. 10 lines 10-45).

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

4.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hussein A El-chanti whose telephone number is (571)272-3999. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00.
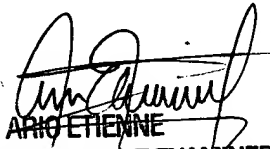
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571)272-4001. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hussein Elchanti

Feb. 25, 2005

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